

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 PM-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
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FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0020

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: NATO, AORG
SUBJECT: FIRST CLASS TRAVEL IN NATO

REF: (A)STATE 54548 (B) USNATO 2135

1. IN CALL ON SYG 16 MARCH, AMBASSADOR AGAIN RAISED QUESTION OF FIRST CLASS TRAVEL FOR NATO OFFICIALS. LUNS BEGAN BY DESCRIBING ISSUE AS "RIDICULOUS" IN VIEW SMALL AMOUNT OF MONEY INVOLVED (LESS THAN \$15,000) AND RELATED IT TO EARLIER US POSITION (WHICH HE REGARDS AS PENURIOUS AND PETTY) ON ESTABLISHMENT OF NATO STAFF CENTER. AMBASSADOR ADMITTED US DID NOT LOOK GOOD ON STAFF CENTER AND INDICATED WE WERE CONTINUING EFFORT TO FIND WAY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THAT NATO ACTIVITY.

2. AMBASSADOR MADE SHARP DISTINCTION, HOWEVER, BETWEEN THAT AND TRAVEL ISSUE, EMPHASIZING IMPORTANCE THAT LATTER QUESTION HAS ASSUMED IN CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET CONSIDERATION. HE CITED ACTION BY OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES SUCH AS UN AND OECD AND SAID PRINCIPLE WAS MORE IMPORTANT PERHAPS THAN ACTUAL AMOUNT OF MONEY TO BE SAVED. LUNS CAME AROUND TO ADMITTING SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE OF ISSUE. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION HE STATED HE WOULD GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO ABOLISHING FIRST CLASS
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TRAVEL TO A-6 AND A-7 EMPLOYEES OF NATO AS REQUESTED. HE INDICATED HE WOULD IMPLEMENT SUCH ACTION AS SOON AS ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE. BENNETT

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Message Attributes

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